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DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is—

" That this House nominates the following one Member to associate with the Committee on Estimates of the Legislative Assembly for the financial year 1958–59 in the casual vacancy caused on the expiration of the term of membership of the Council of Sri A. Gajapathy Nayagar :—

Sri A. Gajapathy Nayagar ".

The motion was put and carried.

(3) NOMINATION OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I move—

" That this House nominates the following two Members to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Legislative Assembly for the financial year 1958–59 in the casual vacancies caused on the expiration of the term of membership of the Council of Sri R Venkataraman and Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.

Sri R. Venkataraman and Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar ".

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is—

" That this House nominates the following two Members to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Legislative Assembly for the financial year 1958–59 in the casual vacancies caused on the expiration of the term of membership of the Council of Sri R. Venkataraman and Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar :—

Sri R. Venkataraman and Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar ".

The motion was put and carried.

VII.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS CITY IMPROVEMENT TRUST (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958 (L.A. BILL NO. 20 OF 1958).

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I move—

" That the Madras City Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1958 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1958), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.'

In the City of Madras, slum improvement schemes are undertaken by the Corporation of Madras and the Madras City Improvement Trust Board. Slum improvement schemes undertaken by that Board have to be sanctioned under the Madras City Improvement Trust Act, 1950 (Madras Act XXXVII of 1950). Under sections 47 to 57 in Chapter III of the Act, every slum improvement scheme to be undertaken by the City Improvement Trust

* Printed as Appendix on page 61 infra.

has to be published, like any other schemes of the Trust Board, in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, eliciting objections, if any, to the proposed acquisition of lands and to the proposed improvement of the slum, and individual notices also have to be served on the occupiers. Further, the Corporation of Madras should also be consulted before implementing the scheme. The observance of these formalities takes a minimum of three months.

. Both the Central and State Governments attach great importance to the speedy implementation of slum improvement schemes. A sum of Rs. 168 lakhs has been allocated to this State for slum improvement works during the Second Five-Year Plan period. The State Government are anxious to utilise the Plan provision of Rs. 168 lakhs fully. As the observance of the formalities laid down in Chapter III of the Madras City Improvement Trust Act, 1950, results in undue delay in the execution of slum improvement schemes by the City Improvement Trust, it is proposed to amend that Act by inserting new section 69-A, empowering the Government to exempt, by notification, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be specified in such notification, any improvement scheme or class of improvement schemes to be formulated and executed by the City Improvement Trust, from all or any of the provisions of Chapter III of the Act.

I request that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : On a point of clarification, Sir. You need not publish it in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and you can proceed with the acquisition?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Let the motion be placed before the House and afterwards I shall answer all questions.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Motion moved—

"That the Madras City Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1958 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1958), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration".

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Sir, on the face of it, it looks very attractive and all right, but I have to ask why these extraordinary powers of exemption are taken by the Government. There is already an Act, the name of which I forget, but the substance of it is "The Slum Clearance Act" which was passed, I think, in 1954 under which the Government can acquire a property, pay compensation at twelve times the rental and all that. Under the provisions of sections 47 to 51 of the Act of 1950, every scheme has to be published and individual notices have also to be served on the occupiers or individuals concerned enabling them to see whether their property rights are respected. They have, therefore, first to publish the scheme and invite objections from the owners of the lands proposed to be acquired. Whatever difficulties may be pointed out by the Corporation, may also be taken into consideration because the Corporation is vitally

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interested in the general plan of the City. All these things are mentioned in sections 47 to 51 of the Act of 1950. They are very useful provisions and the City Improvement Trust Board can finally draw up any proposal after hearing objections. We can very well imagine cases where the rights of other people are also trodden upon. Slum clearance is very important, I do agree, but we have to take into consideration the rights of other people also. The whole of Chapter III not only concerns itself with property rights of other people but also the various regulations for opening street latrines, etc., in respect of which the Corporation rules can be infringed. It has not been specified at all from what provisions of that Chapter exemption will have to be granted. The proposed provision states— 4-20 p.m.

'The Government may, by notification, exempt, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be specified in such notification, any improvement scheme or class of improvement schemes from all or any of the provisions of this Chapter'.

It is not clear which chapter is referred to by the expression 'this Chapter'. I can understand if it is stated 'exempt . . from . . . the provisions of sections 47 to 51. There are other sections under which the ordinary rules as regards the layout and the width of the roads have to be complied with. Therefore, I cannot understand the Government taking a general power to exempt any class of improvement schemes from all or any of the provisions of Chapter III. They only make provision for publishing every slum improvement scheme in the Gazette, giving notice to the individuals concerned and consulting the Corporation of Madras before implementing the scheme. All these are necessary for the purpose of carrying out a slum improvement scheme properly. These provisions are not intended to delay the execution of slum improvement schemes. If notice is given, some time must be given to the parties concerned for filing objections. Then the Board must have some time to come to a decision on those representations. The Corporation has necessarily to be consulted because if an improvement is proposed to be made on a particular site, the general scheme of town-planning will be affected. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to have those provisions. I am not suggesting that if the power of exemption is given to the Government, they will not follow the procedure. Only the proposed provision is very vague. I cannot understand the Government taking such a large power as to completely give the go-by to all or any of the provisions of Chapter III of the Act. I do not think that even the Second Five-Year Plan demands that they should clothe themselves with such extraordinary powers for the purpose of expediting the execution of these schemes. My humble opinion is that following the provisions of the City Improvement Trust Act will ensure the proper effectuation of the slum improvement schemes. I am afraid that the power sought to be taken might not serve any useful purpose. The Government are now anxious to provide that they need not give fourteen days' notice, and that they need not give a long time for filing of objections. Suppose they do not hear objections at all on the ground that the sections are no longer applicable. All these

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difficulties are there. Therefore, I feel that the Government ought not to be clothed with such large powers. They may make any provisions in the rules for the purpose of restricting the time which they should give for the purpose of filing objections and for the purpose of deciding thereupon whether the particular scheme can be put through or not. It is not necessary that they should take power to exempt any scheme from all the provisions of Chapter III, because that chapter provides for many other things also.

*Dr. V. K. JOHN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I quite appreciate the apprehension of my hon. and larned Friend who spoke before me that the Government might exercise their powers arbitrarily and that the interests of the people might be prejudiced. But with great respect to my learned Friend whose apprehension I very much appreciate and which I want the Government to bear in mind. I feel that there is another side to this question. The City Improvement Trust has been doing a wonderfully useful work. I know what work it has been doing. Captain Gnanaolivu is the Chairman and he is the best man for this job. The Trust has been doing very good work. Because they have been doing very well, the Government feel that this money should be utilised within the year for improving the slums and they want to introduce flexibility in the statute. Therefore, they want to take power to exempt any improvement scheme from all or any of the provisions of Chapter III. But the only suggestion that I would like to make to them is that it is better to elicit public opinion and that they take this power and make rules providing for protection of properties of persons affected by the steps that may be taken by the City Improvement Trust. At least two weeks' notice may be given to the parties concerned. I can understand the Government's fear that if all the procedures prescribed in the sections are followed and particularly the provision relating to consultation with the Corporation, which I am afraid is not now functioning well, the schemes may not be carried out at all. Therefore, they feel that some occasion might arise when they might have to exercise such a power of exemption. There must be flexibility in all rules. Every statute must have two characteristics, namely, certainty and flexibility. They are trying to introduce flexibility now. But after getting this Bill passed, they should not make it a general rule to grant exemption from the provisions of Chapter III. The general rule must be to adhere to these provisions and the exemption must be given in only exceptional cases. I hope that the Government will act carefully without prejudicing the interests of the persons concerned. Although I appreciate the strong opposition voiced forth by my hon. and learned Friend, at the same time, I feel that these objections must persuade the Government to exercise this power of exemption only in very rare cases and with great care.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do feel that the Leader of the House preoccupied as he is with so many things has not made out a clear case for the provisions of this Bill. If he has really made out a case that the Government of Madras are in right earnest in wanting to spend a sum of Rs. 168

lakhs during the Second Five-Year Plan period, that they have got so many schemes in hand, that they are ready to be implemented and that most of these slums will be cleared in a year or two but that these provisions stand in the way because it takes a lot of time if these provisions were to be followed, namely, notification in the *Fort. St. George Gazette*, consultation with the Corporation of Madras, etc., then I would say surely, ' I welcome this Bill '. But knowing as we do that the machinery of the Government of Madras moves very slowly, I feel that there will be no occasion to resort to the provisions of this Bill at all and that this will remain a dead letter. I say this for this reason. Even as early as 1953 or 1954—my hon. Friend Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar will bear me out when I say this—the Slum Clearance Act was passed in all haste. But what has happened now? Unfortunately, we find in the City of Madras more slums now than there were in the year 1954. There is development in the growth of slums in Madras rather than clearance of slums. Lands which are owned by some persons are turned into slums overnight. Even in the City of Madras a great part of the lands has been conceded to the Port Trust and even on a little bit of land on the Marina a big slum has developed. Therefore, I feel that merely taking power under this Bill is not going to improve matters. But it is for the Leader of the House to come out with a definite policy and programme with regard to the clearance of slums in the City of Madras. I say—and many Members will agree with me—that it is a standing disgrace to the City of Madras that in this very City there are so many people living in unhygienic and horrible conditions. Therefore, I feel that the Government should have a definite policy and programme with regard to the clearance of slums. Merely mentioning that so much money has been allotted in the Second Five-Year Plan is not going to solve the problem.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition Dr. John has paid some encomiums to the City Improvement Trust. I agree with him. However, the City Improvement Trust might have done something for the upper class or the lower middle class people, but nothing has been done for the poor people, as far as I understand. I want the Government to give us statistics as to how many slums have been cleared, how many of these poor people have been rehabilitated and how many houses or at least huts have been constructed for them. I am sure much has not been done. In fact, very little has been done in this regard.. Therefore, if the Hon. the Leader of the House gives us the assurance that the Government of Madras are really determined to spend this amount of . . . (Interruption by Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar). My hon. Friend Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar says that we have got about 43,000 pavement-dwellers. As usual, this is only a modest estimate. The figure must be much more in the City of Madras. Unless the Hon. Minister says, ' I have got a plan; I have got a scheme; I have got a programme, and I am going to spend this amount within a period of two years; I give you this assurance that Madras can feel proud that we have cleared the slums and have provided some ordinary dwelling to the pavement-dwellers ', this legislation will only remain

4-30 p.m.

a dead letter. I can understand the anxiety of the Government to assume so much power. You will have the power no doubt, and the Bill also may be passed. But this legislation will remain a dead letter. If anything, far from clearing slums in Madras, slums will grow and there will be more and more slums springing up in Madras.

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily endorse the views expressed by my hon. Colleague Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar. It is true that there is a proposal to spend a very large amount within a limited period for slum clearance and slum improvement. But that is no reason why we should avoid the usual procedure. If really things have to be done quickly, there are other remedies like engaging extra staff in the offices concerned.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No, no. The point here is that the statutory requirement of time prescribed in Chapter III causes delay, and that is why it is sought to be amended.

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Then the proper course would be to reduce the period laid down by the statute rather than avoid the procedure wholly. As the hon. Member Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar pointed out, there might be many persons who are affected by this Bill.

Another point I would wish to impress upon the Hon. Minister piloting this Bill is this. So far as I understand, slum improvement means the improvement of sanitation, the supply of water, the improvement of roads, the building of houses on a higher level, and so on for those who already have some huts. But what about the pavement-dwellers? There may be 40,000 or a larger number of pavement-dwellers. Anyhow, we find that every month these pavement-dwellers are increasing in number. With the sky as their roof and the ground as their bed, they are pulling on even after eleven years of Swaraj. Is it not our duty to just attend to the needs of these people first rather than to those of the people who have got huts or the poorer middle classes? I would humbly request the Hon. Minister to enlighten me on whether slum improvement is to cover those people who have no huts, that is, to provide huts for those people who are living in pavements, or whether it aims at only providing better houses to those who have already got huts. If the pavement-dwellers are not to be provided for by this slum improvement scheme, I think some other urgent scheme, which may perhaps deserve relaxation of rules, will have to be brought in by the Government. So, I would request enlightenment from the Hon. Minister on what exactly the Government have done or what exactly their proposals are for the provision of houses for these pavement-dwellers who are leading a very pitiable life.

* DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, you will be surprised to know that I oppose this Bill for only one reason. The very idea of the introduction of this Bill seems to be political. The idea is that only

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the number of heads is counted in elections conducted on the basis of adult franchise. The idea of the Party in power seems to be to pamper those people who have no houses, especially those people who live in cheris and slums. The Party in power should not be allowed to get away with the elections without any difficulty simply because they are entrenched in power to-day and have got control over the purse. That is the reason why I say that this Bill has got a political motive. I tell you another reason. In spite of the fact that they have been trying to improve the slums, the very fact that they are clearing the slums will multiply slums. Most of the people who have no business to be here put up a thatched shed or gunnies to protect themselves against the sun and the rain. We are only attracting people from the villages to improve their position by coming to towns. Those who have had contact with the villages will know that it is becoming more and more difficult, especially in the villages surrounding cities like Madurai and Madras, to get field labour. Therefore, the very idea of clearance of slums will have an indirect effect on farm labour in villages surrounding big cities. I honestly believe that the Party in power has got a political motive in bringing in this Bill before this House for the simple reason that adult franchise will really stand them in good stead if they pamper these slum-dwellers.

I say with considerable pain that I know that some of these slums are really horrid in nature. People who have no ostensible means of livelihood try to get a few cows or buffaloes and make the whole place stink like hell. The Corporation of Madras is afraid of interfering with these people, especially the sanitary authorities. I myself have invited the attention of the Health Officer of the Corporation to the existence of this state of affairs in some of the slums in the heart of the City. I was indirectly given to understand that they were not willing to interfere, because it was likely to hurt a large number of voters and, therefore, it would not be in the interest of either the Corporation or the Government or anybody to interfere with the slum-dwellers and their means of eking out their livelihood.

I think by improving slums, the Government are only increasing the influx of a large number of people to the City from the villages surrounding the City. The Government not only deprive the people in the villages of the farm labour but also make the position of people in the City very hot to live in. Therefore, I request Government to pay attention to this question. It is impossible to clean the Augean stables. Whatever may be the position of the Government or the Party in power, with all their resources, it is impossible to clear the slums in the various cities. It is much better to stop the influx of people to the City by making it difficult for them to live in rather than improve the slums. They do not serve any useful purpose. They are only casual labourers. Most of them are unskilled. Insanitation is due to themselves to a very great extent. Pilfering and theft are an inducement to some of them. I am talking with a full sense of responsibility. Let not the Hon.

the Leader of the House think that I am talking through my hat. In some of the cases that have come to our knowledge, we see that slum-dwellers have indulged in pilfuring. In the matter of cattle lifting and purchase of cattle and also offering them for sale, these slum-dwellers have been responsible.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : How can the hon. Member make it a general charge?

* DR. A. SREENIVASAN : I think it is not in the interests of the public to encourage this Bill at all. By clearing slums I mean doing away with the slums altogether and not making the slums attractive for people from the villages to come to the cities.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, I am sorry that the last speaker has dwelt on several matters unconnected with this Bill.

DR. V. K. JOHN : Don't feel too sorry.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : I am surprised that he should say that it is impossible to improve the slums.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : You wait and see.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : It may be impossible, but that does not mean that we should not make a beginning. I am glad that the Government have realised this . . (Dr. A. Sreenivasan : In their own interest!) and allotted large amounts for the implementation of slum improvement schemes. I am also glad that the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has thought it fit to say that the rules governing the implementation of these schemes, should be flexible. I am glad he has realized that. He has said
4-40 p.m. that only in proper cases, this clause should be put into execution, I mean the exemption clause. I am sure that the Government will grant such exemptions only in deserving cases and that they will not do it in all cases. Even the hon. Member Mr. Balasubramanya Ayyar has conceded that there is need to put down delay, but he was only anxious that justice should be done to all concerned. The Government are anxious to utilize the Plan provision of Rs. 168 lakhs. I am sure that when this amount is spent on useful schemes during the Second Five-Year Plan period, all the objections raised by the hon. Member Sri Raza Khan would be met and to satisfy him and other Members of the House, I would request the Hon. the Leader of the House to tell us what schemes are proposed to be taken up for utilizing this sum of Rs. 168 lakhs so that we may have an idea of how far we would be able to meet the arguments advanced by the hon. Member Mr. Raza Khan and also by Dr. Sreenivasan. I am sure the schemes are already ready and are being put through not only by the Corporation of Madras but also by the City Improvement Trust. It is with regard to the City Improvement Trust that this Bill has been brought forward, because for all these schemes undertaken by the City Improvement Trust, the provisions of the City Improvement Trust Act will have to be applied and exemption is sought only with regard to these schemes. I am sure that the Leader of the House would give us some indication of the schemes of the City Improvement Trust coming

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under the Second Plan. Already, three years of the Second Plan are over and there is every necessity for the expeditious implementation of these schemes. With these few observations, I support the Bill.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I thank the hon. Members of this House for the general support that they have given to this Bill. It was pointed out by some of them that there might be scope for abuse for the large powers. In the first place, I wish to clarify that none of the property rights would be affected by this measure, i.e., granting exemptions under Chapter III of the Act. If the Government were to acquire property under the Land Acquisition Act or the City Improvement Trust Act, all the procedures laid down for giving notice, assessment, valuation of property, etc., will have to be followed. If you formulate a scheme for improvement, you have to observe certain formalities like giving of notice (1) to the people resident there and (2) to the Corporation of Madras, then the notification in the Gazette ond so on. Thus, before any scheme is adopted, a considerablbe time has to be spent on merely serving notices. After the scheme is published, if we can cut out the various notifications required and the time required, it will be possible for us to go ahead with the particular improvement schemes. The improvement scheme itself requires in certain cases that the width of the road shall be so much or that the building shall be of a certain character. It is not possible to observe these conditions with regard to the improvement of slums and that is the second reason why we have come forward for asking the legislature to give us powers to grant exemption.

As we contemplate now, we propose to allot somewhere about 800 square feet for each slum-dweller and the surplus population, after allotting the space in the slum, will have to be rehabilitated in another centre. We have several schemes. So far, we have spent Rs. 41 lakhs in respect of these improvement schemes, which at present rehabilitate the slum population in open plots. For the year 1958–59, we have a scheme for spending Rs. 60 lakhs, out of which Rs. 20 lakhs would be spent on building pucca tenements in North Madras for 500 slum-dwellers and building in the South Madras area pucca tenements for slum-dwellers to house as many as 900 families. Land is being acquired for this purpose and construction would be started soon. Apart from the sum of Rs. 40 lakhs proposed to be spent on these tenements, we propose also to spend Rs. 20 lakhs on open plot schemes, that is, to give the slum-dwellers open plots fully equipped and fully developed with sewage, water, lighting and so on. All these schemes require considerable amount of spade-work and so it has not come out very brightly in the picture of the Second Five-Year Plan development. Because, all this time, we have been engaged in spade-work. The results of the slum improvement schemes undertaken by the Madras Government would be apparent at the end of this year or early next fiancial year by which time many of the tenments and the development plots which we are going to give would have fructified.

Actually, people would have moved out of the present slums. I agree that we should not only improve the slums but also prevent the growth of new slums. Here, if the Government are a little hard, I am quite sure that at least this House will show its sympathy to this Government in this respect. The Government have fixed a date and all sums started after the particular date in 1957 will be treated as unauthorized slums and cleared accordingly. All the slums that have come into existence after that date in 1957 will be cleared and the slum-dwellers in those areas will not be entitled to ask the Government for alternative accommodation.

Sir, in this connexion, I also wish to make it very clear to this House as well as the public that the Government will not sell these lands to the slum-dwellers for any reason whatsoever. There seems to be a misapprehension in the minds of some of the slum-dwellers that some time later, these lands will be sold to them, that, therefore, they must stick on to them and that if they go out of these lands, they will lose the right of purchasing those lands. That is why they are not prepared to move out of these lands. I may emphatically state on this occasion that the Government have no proposal whatsoever for selling any of these lands which they have allotted and taken up for slum improvement. The Government will, no doubt, improve the slum, provide the amenities and then only rent it out to them. The people who go out of these lands and settle in the new tenements will also be provided with all these amenities and they will also have very favourable rent and other conditions.

So far as the other criticism relating to the pavement-dwellers is concerned, it is said that they have not been looked after. I wish to inform the House that from a survey taken about them, we find that there are about 6,000 pavement-dwellers. We have now a scheme costing a sum of Rs. 1·5 lakhs for settling about 91 families at Tondiarpet. The scheme is in progress and we will take up similar schemes for rehabilitating these people. The reason why the pavement-dwellers do not get out of their present places is that they want to be very near the work-spots. Most of them are workers working in the Harbour, they are dock workers and the like, and they want to be very near their work-spot. It is not possible for any civilized Government to provide housing accommodation to the workers very near the work-spot. If anything, civilized Governments all over the world desire that the workers should reside as far away from their work-spot as possible. But, in striking contrast, we in this country find that the workers want to live very near the work-spot. One of the great impediments in the way of rapid improvement of slums is this.

4–50 p.m. Criticism was also levelled against the Slum Improvement Act lying dormant. We have come across a difficulty in the working of the Slum Improvement Act and that is why we have not been able to make full use of the provisions of the Act. The Act provides that the compensation payable to the slum-dweller, if he owns the hut, or to the owner of the property, shall be twelve times the rent paid. We have found that twelve times the rent is sometimes very

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much higher than the market value of the hutment itself. For example, if the monthly rental is five rupees for a hut, the annual rent comes to sixty rupees and if a man has lived in a hut for twelve years, the compensation becomes twelve times that annual rent which means Rs. 720. But the hutment would be worth only fifty or sixty rupees. Therefore, we have not been able to take full advantage of the Slum Improvement Act We are contemplating some amendment and if that is incorporated, we will be able to utilize the provisions of this Act fully. As it is, I thank the House for the general support it has given and I am sure that the Government will not lightly exercise the powers given to them and that they will always try to hear all possible objections to the schemes which they formulate before they take a final decision in the matter.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : So, there is nothing political. (Laughter.)

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is—

"That the Madras City Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1958 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1958), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I move—

"That the Madras City Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1958 (I.A. Bill No. 20 of 1958), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Motion moved—

"That the Madras City Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1958 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1958), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : கனம் டிபுடி சேர்மன் அவர்களே, ஒவ்வொரு குடிசையிலும் இருக்கிறவர்களை அப்புறப்படுத்தும்போது, அவர்களில் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட சதுர அடி அளவு நிலத்தைக் கொடுத்துவிட்டு மிஞ்சியவர்களுக்கு மற்ற இடங்களில் இடம் கொடுத்து அனுப்பப்படும் என்று கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். அப்படி அனுப்பப்படும்போது, தொழில்களை நடத்துகிறவர்கள் தங்களுடைய தொழில் நிலையங்களுக்குப் பக்கத்திலேயே இருந்தால், தங்களுடைய தொழிலை நடத்துவதற்கும் வாழ்க்கையை நடத்துவதற்கும் வசதியாக இருக்கும் என்று கருதுவார்கள். அதனால் வசிக்குமிடம் தங்களுடைய தொழிற்சாலைகளுக்குப் பக்கத்திலேயே இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று விரும்பலாம். அவர்களை வெகு தூரத்திற்கு அப்பால் அப்புறப்படுத்தும்படியான நிலை ஏற்பட்டால், அவர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைக்கு இடையூறாக இருக்கலாம். இப்பொழுதுள்ள மசோதாப்படியும் இன்னும் அரசாங்கம் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளக் கூடிய நடவடிக்கைகளையும் பார்த்தால் கஷ்டமேற்படலாம். இப்படி அப்புறப்படுத்துகிறவர்களைத் தவிர மிஞ்சி இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு, தங்களுடைய தொழில் நிலையங்களுக்கு அடிக்கடி வந்து போக ஏற்றவாறு ஏதாவது வசதி செய்து கொடுப்பார்களா என்பதை அரசாங்கத்தினிடமிருந்து அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : While the Hon. Minister deserves congratulations on getting his Bill through, I am afraid he has not clarified one point. He said that such of the people as had developed the slums after 1957 would have no right to permanency. He did not, however, say anything about slums which came into existence before 1957. To give an example, a slum has developed in a very horrible manner just half a mile from here on the Beach itself. There have been a lot of objections voiced both in the Press and on the platform. Am I to understand that it will remain there on a permanent basis or will the Government see that the slum-dwellers there are removed to a better area? Unless we find some built-up area to provide alternative accommodation to them, we cannot do anything. I would like the Hon. Minister to clarify the position.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If the hon. Member Mr. Raza Khan wants information about the slum in question—Kanniappanagar slum—I would like him to give notice of an interpellation on the subject so that I may gather all necessary material and furnish the information to him.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : But you are going to the U.N.O.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If the hon. Member wants to know the general policy of the Government, it is to clear the slums and to allow, in accordance with the 800 square feet rule, only such number of people as can live there to remain. The surplus population alone will be taken and rehabilitated elsewhere. But this does not apply to the Kanniappanagar slum. I do not want the hon. Member to get the impression that this slum will come under that scheme.

So far as the question of removing slum-dwellers to places far away from their present habitation is concerned, it is inevitable and cannot be helped. People have to choose between better living and walking a little distance. If we want to improve the slums, we have to compel the people to go a little out of the town and live in places which have been cleared and made habitable and sanitary for them. I hope the slum-dwellers will co-operate in this task of ours.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is—

"That the Madras City Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1958 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1958), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow.

The House then adjourned.